

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: §  
David John Hillis et al. §  
Serial No.: 10/618,419 § Group Art Unit: 3663  
Confirmation No.: 7081 § § Examiner: Scott A. Hughes  
Filed: July 11, 2003 § §  
For: IMPROVING COLLAPSE § §  
RESISTANCE OF TUBING § §

MAIL STOP Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

In response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month set to expire on January 8, 2009, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0122/WBP for any deficiencies of fees and credit any overpayment required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.